

FURTHER OCCURRENCES OF RED-THROATED PIPITS *ANTHUS CERVINUS* AT NDOLA, ZAMBIA
 Following the March 1979 record of a single Red-throated Pipit at Itawa swamps, Ndola (Taylor 1979) I found this species at exactly the same locality in early 1980. My first sighting was of a single bird which flew in to feed with Yellow Wagtails *Motacilla flava* at the margin of a shallow muddy pool in short-grassed grazing land on 21 January 1980. This bird was seen subsequently by several observers including C. Carter, who has seen this species in East Africa and who confirms identification (pers. comm.). It was present to the end of January and, on 1 February, was joined by a second Red-throated Pipit, which had paler buff markings on the upperparts, this feature making it possible to recognize either individual at close range. The two birds were seen subsequently by several observers and were present continuously until 6 March. I was able to find only one on 8 March but was not able to approach close enough to identify the individual. One flying off from the grassland with Yellow Wagtails at sunset on 14 March was my last record. Yellow Wagtails continued to occur regularly in the area and even increased in numbers during late March, suggesting augmentation by passage birds from further south.

During February the first bird began to show flecks of dark pink on the face, and by the end of the month it was quite uniformly washed with this colour on face and throat. The second bird remained quite pale in these areas but appeared to become more strongly washed with pinky-buff than it had been when it first arrived.

These records suggest that the Red-throated Pipit may not be merely a vagrant to Zambia, as I had imagined after seeing the March 1979 bird (which was present for only one day), but that it may winter regularly at Itawa, where the habitat is eminently suitable. However, although I have visited the area in question regularly since late 1974, I was not aware of the bird's occurrence until March 1979. Its prolonged residence in 1980 may have been due partly to the unusually dry conditions, but the records suggest that it may winter regularly considerably further south in Africa than the limit of northern Tanzania given by Moreau (1972). In the southern Kenya localities of Naivasha, Nairobi and Tsavo West National Park numbers can vary quite widely from year to year, even though apparently suitable habitat appears to be available (G.C. Backhurst pers. comm.). This yearly variation, if real, would be more apparent at the presumed southern extremity of the species' range and may explain why I did not record it before March 1979 at Itawa.

REFERENCE

TAYLOR, P.B. 1979. Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* at Ndola, Zambia. *Scopus* 3: 80.

P.B. Taylor, Box 70415, Ndola, Zambia

Received 14 April 1980

Scopus 4: 72, September 1980

LESLIE HILTON BROWN, O.B.E., Ph.D.

The OS-C expresses its deep regret at the untimely death of Dr Leslie Brown on 6 August 1980. Dr Brown, a tireless ornithologist and prolific writer, was working on the page-proofs of the first volume of *The birds of Africa* the day he died; *The breeding seasons of East African birds* was published on the same day and, sadly, Leslie never saw the finished book; in less than two weeks he was to have been a Vice-Chairman of the Fifth Pan-African Ornithological Congress in Lilongwe.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and son.

A full Obituary will appear in a later issue of *Scopus*.